

ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WARTHLING ELECTED CHAIR OF ECWA

Buffalo, NY - Lackawanna resident and businessman Francis G. Warthling was elected Chair of the Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) by his fellow commissioners at the ECWA's recent reorganization meeting.

Warthling, a lifelong Lackawanna resident, is co-owner of Diamond Cutters, which opened a second location on Abbott Road in Lackawanna in late 2009. He also owns and operates a residential and commercial real estate business and is very active in the community, including: serving on the Lackawanna Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; a member of the Lackawanna Planning Board and Lackawanna Public Schools Audit Committee; and is Chairman of the Lackawanna Democratic Committee. Warthling is in his second three-year term on the ECWA Board of Commissioners.

"I'm honored to be elected Chair of the ECWA by my fellow commissioners Jack O'Donnell and Earl Jann and I am grateful for their confidence and support," Warthling said.

Warthling said he pursued the board chair based on the accomplishments the ECWA has achieved during his two terms on the board, including:

- Completed \$115 million in system-wide infrastructure upgrades over the past 5 years and recently approved another five-year \$87 million infrastructure investment program;
- Two bond rating increases and a rating reaffirmation from Wall Street - currently "AA+"; among the highest of any public agency in New York State;
- Continued to expand customer base with additional service consolidations with the towns of Evans and Hamburg and the Village of Blasdell;
- Maintained 2nd lowest water rate among all public water purveyors in Western New York;
- Average rate increase of less than 1 percent over the past five years;
- Installed stand-by power generators at all major facilities;
- Numerous industry awards for "Excellence in Financial Reporting" and "Engineering Excellence";
- Customer satisfaction rating of 92%;

"I am very proud of the accomplishments we have achieved on behalf of our ratepayers during my tenure on the board of commissioners," Warthling said. "My colleagues on the board and the entire organization are committed to maintaining the ECWA as one of the best managed public utilities in New York State."

Also at ECWA's reorganization meeting, Commissioner Earl L. Jann, Jr. was elected Vice-Chair and Commissioner Jack F. O'Donnell, Jr. was elected Treasurer.

The Erie County Water Authority is an independent, self-sustaining public utility that provides safe, clean drinking water at an affordable rate to more than 550,000 consumers throughout Western New York.

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